



To the Honorable
the House of Commons in
Parliament assembled.

*The Humble Petition of the Well-affected In-
habitants of the City of Worcester.*

Sheweth,

THat at the day of Election of Burgeses for the County of the City of *Worcester*, to sit in this present Parliament, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Ministers, with the well-affected and majority of the substantiall Citizens and Freemen thereof, having fixed, and accordingly at the Election given their Votes for *Edmund Giles*, one of the Masters of Chancery, as one of their Membets to sit in this present Parliament ; There came into the fields one *Thomas Street*, Councillor at Law, a person who had been in Arms against the Paliament, and a profane Swearer, and so incapable of being elected, (as by the fourth Article of the Humble Petition and Advice is expressed) attended with such as had been likewise in Arms against the Parliament, and many of them Officers, with a multitude of debaucht, rude, unqualified persons, the rable of the city, Cowl-carriers, and Receivers of weekly alms, and

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many of them not free, (some of whose names were taken severall times) together with Papists, and persons Popishly affected, mutinously threatening, and crying, *Down with the ROU ND HEAD S*, scorning at the Ministers, and voting for the said *Thomas Street*, who constantly associareth himself with disaffected persons; Which said rude multitude compassed many of the well-affected Voters about, reviled them, holding up their staves at them, jostling, and being ready to strike, that before they could be freed from fear and danger, they were forced to call for the help of Soldiers immediately before they went to poll; the Sheriff of the said City being told that the said Mr *Street* and many that came to vote for him, were persons uncapable either to elect, or to be elected, as not being qualified, (as is directed in the said *Humble Petition and Advice*) and witnesses ready to prove the same: The Sheriff answered, That if any that was uncapable did stand, it did belong to the Parliament, and not to him to except against him; and withall, promised, that after the Voters names were taken they should be examined, and liberty given to any men to except against them: but so soon as the list of Names was taken, he took a view of them, and contrary to his promise of examining their qualifications, he presently sealed the Indentures: And being since desired to give your Petitioners a copy of his List of the Names of such as had elected, that their qualifications might be better known, refuseth so to do. And the said Mr. *Street* threatneth to sue at Law such as shall witness his being in armes, and so by his menaces endeavouring to take them off: and since the said Election honest men cannot passe the streets about their necessary occasions, without Jeers, Scorns, and Stones thrown at them.

May it please this *Honourable House* (the said Election being contrary to the votes of the Major Alderm, Ministers, & Well-affected Inhabitants of

of the said city) to take the whole businesse into timely Consideration, and to hear and judge of the Person thus elected, according to Justice, that so we may reap the benefit of the Law in this case provided; And that the Sheriff may be ordered upon his Oath, to give a true Copy of the Names of those that Voiced for the said Street.

*And your Petitioners shall ever
pray, &c.*

<i>Anthony Carles.</i>	<i>William Cheate.</i>	<i>Richard Fincher.</i>
<i>Tho: Ince.</i>	<i>Will: Cox.</i>	<i>Thomas Etons.</i>
<i>Will: Langston.</i>	<i>Io: Vicaris.</i>	<i>Edw: Higgins</i>
<i>Tho: Smith.</i>	<i>Roger Barns.</i>	<i>Rich: Coules.</i>
<i>Flemming Garfe.</i>	<i>Geo: Wilson.</i>	<i>John Morley.</i>
<i>Phil: Allen.</i>	<i>Will: Sandy.</i>	<i>Rich: Sanders.</i>
<i>Tho: Clark.</i>	<i>Henry Meeke.</i>	<i>John Frankombe.</i>
<i>Will: Hailes.</i>	<i>John Sheppard.</i>	<i>Will: Ince.</i>
<i>Arthur Iones.</i>	<i>John Ward.</i>	<i>Rich: Lloyd.</i>
<i>Edw: Reynolds.</i>	<i>Humph: Nash.</i>	<i>George Osald.</i>
<i>Rich: Coules.</i>	<i>Edw: Mond.</i>	<i>Rich: Frankombe.</i>
		<i>Wil: Mond.</i>

The Heads of Mr. Streets answer to the charge, together with a true state of his Case.

First that Mr. Street was born and bred within the City of Worcester, his Father having been a Citizen there, and born all Offices within the same, and spent great part of his estate to advance the interest of the said City.

That at the beginning of these Troubles he was very young, not above fifteen years old, and being his Fathers eldest Son, was sent to the University, where he continued the greatest part of the warrs.

That his Father and Mother both dying, and leaving behind them eight small Children, and a considerable personal Estate in a desperate confused manner, and leaving Mr. *Street* Executor, his friends sent for him from the University to manage that Estate, and take care of his Brothers and Sisters, who accordingly came and took care of them; and this was his imployment, never being in Armes, nor was ever guilty of swearing, or any other crime as by the Petition is most scandalously alledged.

Besides Mr. *Streets* Mother, with the approbation of her husband, was a great supporter and supplier of all Prisoners and other persons as were any waie distressed for serving of the Parliament, and did disburse several sums of money to that purpose, whereby the lives of many of the Parliament prisoners were preserved: and after the death of his said Mother, divers other sums of money were paid by Mr. *Street* for the same purpose.

It is true the City of *Worcester* was at this time a Garrison for the King, but the Kings Party very much declining, and the Parliament were masters of the Field, and Mr. *Street* walking one day in the fields neer the City, a great Party of Parliament Horse, under the command of Colonel *Morgan* falling suddenly down neer the wall of the City, surprized him, and carryed him as a prize to their Head Quarters, and finding him a person of some Quality, offered him an exchange; but he knowing his innocency, refused, and the truth of his case appearing, he was by the said *Morgan* and the Committee discharged, and ever since to this day hath lived in and very neer the said City, and was never questioned or sequestered or secured, but since hath been called to the Barr, and practised the Law in the Courts of *Westminster*, and at home, and without doubt if Mr. *Street* had been so notorious a Delinquent as he is charged to be, the Committee long ere this would have found him out.

For

For the maner of his Election, 'twas thus; It was an Im-
 ployment never sought for by him, but living within the Ci-
 ty, and being a Free-man there, and conceived to be most fit
 to serve his native place, he was by the principallest and best
 men of the City, and by most of the well affected, and
 especially divers who had been in actual Arms for the Par-
 liament, earnestly solicited and importuned to stand for
 Burgees for the City, which at last he promised to do;
 but first he acquainted Captain *Collins*, his fellow-Bur-
 gesses, therewith, and also Mr. *Moor* the Minister; who
 seemed well to approve thereof. And so accordingly, at
 the day of Election he appeared in the Town-Hall, where
 assoon as the Writ was read, a great number of substan-
 tial persons Voted for him; and because some other Vo-
 ted for Captain *Collins*, and also for Mr. *Giles*, a Master of
 the Chancery, the Sheriff drew into the fields for more
 room, and there was the freest Election that ever was,
 and carried above five to one for Mr. *Street*; who not-
 withstanding gave to Mr. *Collins* the first Voyce; and all
 this was done without any reviling at any Minister or o-
 thers, or crying, Down with the Roundheads, or any o-
 ther misdemeanor at all on Mr. *Streets* Party, although,
 'tis true, they were much provoked and affronted, and
 all that could be done, to promote a Quarrel.

Shortly after, assoon as the Sheriff and the Members
 were returned into the Town-Hall, Mr. *Moor*, notwith-
 standing his former seeming compliance, attended with
 some others of his Party, came into the Hall openly re-
 viling and threatening Mr. *Street*, telling him he should
 never sit in Parliament: and shortly after caused Sixteen
 pounds to be Collected in the City, and he himself under-
 took, and doth sollicite the business against Mr. *Street*.

And accordingly hath framed this Scandalous and De-
 famatory Petition, under the Title and name of the Ma-
 jor, Aldermen, and well affected, and the Majority of
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the City ; whereas the persons that have Subscribed, are neither the Major or any of the Aldermen, and but six that are of any quality at all, and some of those deny the subscribing of their names; and for the rest, they are poor inconsiderable persons, and one of them a receiver of Alms, and others no Free-men at all, and not to be regarded in a matter of this consequence, and the whole number but 35. whereas the City doth consist of the Major, six Aldermen and a Common-council, consisting of 72. besides some thousands of substantial Inhabitants and Free-men that have as much interest in the Election.

It is much admired that these inconsiderable persons should dare to prefer so strange a Petition to this Honorable Assembly, under the names of others who do not subscribe, and the business wholly promoted out of Malice, and is of such a nature, as will in a short time give encouragement to such turbulent spirits, to question all Elections; and where a man is Elected as Mr. *Street* was, by near 600. Votes, 35. persons shall take upon them to scandal and defame such a person in open Parliament; if such things be suffered, no Member shall sit quiet there: And in all this stir, the person (Mr. *Giles*) whom they do pretend to Vote for, never so much as appeared in it, but utterly disowneth the same.

The several particulars shall be asserted upon the oaths of five hundred witnesses, and the greatest part of the ablest Citizens have already certified the truth hereof to the Parliament; and therefore it is desired that the Members of this Honourable House, will seriously lay this case to heart, and suppress such scandalous Libels as these are, that so Parliaments might be holden like Parliaments, in honour, freedom and safety.

This Cause is to be heard before the Committee of Priviledges on Tuesday the 22. of this instant Feb.

To

To the Honorable the House of Commons now in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition and Certificate of many of the well-affected Citizens of the City and County of the City of Worcester.

Sheweth,

THat your Petitioners and many others, being the major part of the substantial and well affected Citizens, and Inhabitants of the said City and County, observing and knowing *Thomas Street* Esq; Counceller at Law, and Citizen and Inhabitant of the said City, to be a person of pious and civil conversation, no profane swearer, no drunkard, nor companion of any such, nor of any other persons ill-affected to Godliness, and the present Government; but an exemplar of singular honesty and integrity of life: And also knowing him to be the son of an eminent Alderman of the said City, and that his Parents were well-affected persons, and had deserved much respect from the said City, and that he hath been virtuously and ingeniously educated, and is richly qualified and endowed with Learning and good parts, and being satisfied that he was never in Arms against the Parliament of *England*, nor assisted, abetted or adhered to the late King or his Party in the late Wars, but lived peaceably and retiredly, and hath maintained, or contributed towards the maintenance of Armies, for and in defence of this Commonwealth and present Government, and given other signal testimonies of his said affection to the same: And therefore was in our judgements fitly qualified to serve this Commonwealth as a Burgess, of and for the said City. And upon these considerations, we, and divers hundreds more (being the major part of the substantial and well-affected Citizens, and Inhabitants of the said City, and capable to give Votes in this behalf) did on the day of the late Election of Burgesses for the said City, to serve in this present Parliament, give our Votes for the said *Thomas Street*, and did Elect him in civil, peaceable and orderly
maner,

maner, to be one of the Burgesses for the said City: And we do humbly conceive, that the Sheriff of the said City and County ought, and so we hope did return him accordingly.

Now may it please this Honorable House, your Petitioners observing that there are divers malicious and untrue aspersions (by Petition preferred to this Honorable House) cast, and endeavored to be fixed, not onely upon your Petitioners, and other the Electers aforesaid, but also upon the said person Elected, endeavoring to render him incapable to serve in this Parliament: We therefore in all humility shew, that the said Petition preferred against the said Mr. Street, to this Honorable House, touching the uncapableness of him and his Electers, is altogether untrue, and is preferred and prosecuted by his professed enemies, who have received money or other hire, to prosecute the same, and is disowned and disavowed by divers of the said persons, whose names are subscribed to the said Petition, and that divers other of them are poor and needy persons that receive Alms, and are of the rabble, and meaner sort of the people of the said City, and such as maliciously endeavor to stir sedition, and raise tumults in the said City: And that in truth none of the persons who Voted against the said Mr. Street, were then, or have been since (to your Petitioners knowledge) affronted, jeered, or evilly intreated, as by the said Petition is suggested.

May it therefore please this honorable House to take the Premises into your grave and serious consideration, and according to your wonted Justice, to hear your Petitioners, and to admit them to the proof of this their Petition, and of the capability of the aforesaid Mr. Street to be elected, and themselves to elect, and also to prove the qualities of the Informers against him and them in this business, that so their malice may be unmasked and detected, Justice promoted, and Almighty God glorified.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

Subscribed and attested by many hundreds of the ablest Inhabitants of the City of Worcester.